

Amendment - Ser. No. 10/730,699

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REMARKS

This responds to the non-final Office Action outstanding against this application. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-14 and 17-19 remain pending.

Allowed Claims

The allowance of original claims 1-11 is acknowledged. No amendments to or further remarks regarding these claims are presented herein.

Rejected Claims

Independent claims 12 and 17 have been amended and are respectfully submitted to define over the Jackson and/or Ray documents, whether these documents are taken alone or in combination.

The Examiner states that Jackson discloses the particular sight gauge shield as recited in independent claims 12 and 17. With respect to claims 17-21, the Examiner further cites to Ray as teaching that it is known to use a sight gauge with a shield on in combination with a coffee urn.

The applicants and undersigned respectfully disagree with the Examiner's comments on Jackson. At col. 4, lines 39-42 Jackson discloses that the "protective shields and flanges . . . may even be plastic" It is respectfully noted, however, the beyond this mention of the possibility of using plastic for the shield, Jackson includes not disclosure or fair suggestion of the sight gauge shield of claims 12 and 17. Claims 12 and 17 are not merely directed to the general concept of a plastic sight gauge shield. Instead, both of these independent claims define a very specific one-piece molded polymeric sight gauge shield having certain advantageous features. The shield of FIGS. 4 and 5 of Jackson is a multi-piece construction, and it does not include limitations recited in claims 12 and 17, e.g., "first and second cylindrical, externally threaded end portions" and also "a bore that extends between and through said first and

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second opposite end portions, said bore defined by a constant diameter cylindrical inner surface" In fact, Jackson teaches away from the threaded ends of the present sight gauge shield of claims 12 and 17 by requiring flanged ends for installation and for the plug inserts 122. Nothing in Ray can cure these deficiencies of Jackson. As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 12 and 17 and their respective dependent claims define over the cited documents of record.

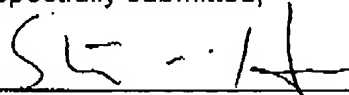
Dependent Claims 13/14 and 18/19

Nothing in Jackson or Ray discloses or fairly suggests the webs recited in claims 13/14 and 18/19 (*see webs 40,42 of the present application*). Neither Jackson nor Ray discloses or mentions any web that spans the viewing slot. As such, claims 13, 14, 18 and 19 are submitted to be allowable for this reason also, in addition to being dependent on claim 12 or 17.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that this application now meets all statutory requirements. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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